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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4794th meeting of the Security Council, held on 25 July 2003, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Security Council mission", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the recommendations made in the reports of its mission to Central Africa from 7 to 16 June 2003 (S/2003/653) and its mission to West Africa from 26 June to 5 July 2003 (S/2003/688).

"The Security Council endorses the recommendations of these two missions which fall within its area of responsibility and wishes to see them implemented. It has already taken the relevant recommendations into account in preparing its resolution renewing and strengthening the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"Where responsibility for implementation falls to others, the Council looks forward to working in partnership with them, including United Nations agencies and programmes; Governments in Central Africa and West Africa; regional and subregional organizations, notably the Economic Community of West African States; donor countries; non-governmental organizations; and civil society. The Council invites them to keep it informed about their efforts at implementation, so that the Council can support them and take any further action necessary.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of a subregional approach to issues such as small arms and light weapons, mercenaries, child soldiers and humanitarian access. It stresses that follow-up activity by the United Nations will require close cooperation and coordination throughout the United Nations system. Action in these areas should also involve the appropriate organizations, especially in West Africa.

"The Security Council invites the Secretary-General to follow up those recommendations which lie within his responsibility, and would be grateful for a report on progress by 30 November 2003.

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"The Security Council recognizes that resources may be needed to implement its recommendations. Therefore it will continue to encourage donor countries in a position to do so to support such efforts, and to assist regional and subregional organizations in this respect.

"The Security Council intends to review progress in implementing the recommendations in December 2003."